

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3131

EXDIS

DEPT PASS LONDON, MOSCOW, SOFIA, BELGRADE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: RO, CY, PFOR, MOPS

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN CONCERN OVER SPREAD OF CYPRUS CONFLICT

SUMMARY: 1. FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU CALLED ME IN TONIGHT TO EXPRESS ROMANIAN WORRY ABOUT POSSIBLE SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN CYPRUS CONFLICT IF CEASEFIRE NOT ACHIEVED SOON AND THEREFORE TO APPEAL TO U.S. TO KEEP ROMANIA'S INTERESTS IN MIND TOO BY SECURING IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE. END SUMMARY.

2. MACOVESCU SAW ME AT 7:15 TONIGHT TO TELL ME OF ROMANIAN DEMARCHES THIS AFTERNOON TO TURKS, GREEKS AND BRITISH URGING IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, WITHDRAWAL OF ALL UNAUTHORIZED FOREIGN TROOPS AND RESTORATION OF MAKARIOS. HE STRESSED ROMANIA'S CONCERN AS A BALKAN STATE. GOR POSITION COVERED IN FORMAL GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION JUST BEING PUBLISHED. SOVIETS, YUGOSLAV'S, FRENCH,

ARABS AND ISRAELI AMBASSADORS BEING CALLED IN TONIGHT AND TOMORROW FOR SAME MESSAGE.

3. MACOVESCU THEN CONCENTRATED ON SPECIAL MESSAGE TO U.S.: A) U.S. IS IN THE BEST POSITION TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF THE CONFLICT AND TO GET THE GREEKS AND TURKS TO ACCEPT AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE; B) NO ONE REPEAT NO ONE CAN HAVE ANY INTEREST IN THE CONFLICT SPREADING; C) ROMANIA HAD HOPED THE BALKANS COULD BE A SORT OF
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MODEL FOR REASONABLY GOOD RELATIONS AMONG STATES WITH DIVERSE

SITUATIONS WITHOUT THIS AFFECTING EITHER U.S. OR SOVIET VITAL INTERESTS; D) NOW, JUST WHEN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT SEEMED ON ITS WAY TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, THE CYPRUS FLARE-UP COULD SPREAD ALL TOO QUICKLY TO THE BALKANS AND THEN TO THE REST OF EUROPE; E) ROMANIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAD BEEN BUILT UP AFTER SO MANY EFFORTS AND YET ALL THIS COULD BE SWEEPED AWAY IF THE DANGER SPREAD INTO THE BALKANS AND MORE AND MORE STATES BECAME INVOLVED (HERE MACOVESCU MADE A GESTURE OF TROOPS SWEEPING DOWN THROUGH THE BALKANS).

4. I INTERRUPTED HIM TO ASK IF HE HAD ANY INDICATIONS OF ANY STATES IN THE AREA HAVING TAKEN ANY STEPS THAT PORTENDED SUCH INTERVENTION. HE SAID A NUMBER HAD TAKEN VARIOUS PRECAUTIONARY MILITARY MEASURES, ALTHOUGH NOTHING YET FORESHADOWING INTERVENTION. BUT HE WENT ON TO UNDERLINE ROMANIAN FEAR THAT IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE BIG POWERS MIGHT GET INVOLVED AND THAT WOULD DRAW IN OTHERS LIKE ROMANIA. FINALLY HE ASKED ME TO PASS TO WASHINGTON A ROMANIAN APPEAL TO TRY TO BEAR ROMANIA'S DIFFICULT POSITION IN MIND AND, IN ADDITION TO ALL THE REASONS HE KNEW THE U.S. HAD, FOR THIS FURTHER REASON TO BRING ABOUT THE QUICKEST POSSIBLE CEASEFIRE. WE HAD SHOWN IN THE MIDDLE EAST WE KNEW HOW TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THE FIGHTING AND HE WAS SURE COULD DO THE SAME IN CYPRUS.

5. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM REASSURING MACOVESCU OF OUR OWN CLEAR INTEREST IN STOPPING THE FIGHTING AS SHOWN BY THE SISCO MISSION, I ASKED HIM TO LET ME KNOW WHENEVER HE HAD ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT INDICATE ANY INCREASED INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS HE PROMISED TO DO. HE CAREFULLY REFRAINED THROUGHOUT FROM USING THE WORD SOVIET, BUT HIS REPEATED REFERENCES TO ROMANIA'S BALKAN LOCATION AND TO THE DANGER TO ROMANIA'S BEING DRAWN INTO THE CONFLICT PLUS HIS PLEA TO BEAR ROMANIA'S INTERESTS IN MIND, WERE ALL CLEAR INDICATIONS OF ROMANIAN WORRY OVER SOVIET INTENTIONS. HE WOULD NOT BE MORE SPECIFIC, ADDING ONLY THAT CYPRUS' BEING SURROUNDED BY WATER WAS NO GUARANTEE AT ALL THAT FIRE WOULD NOT SPREAD RAPIDLY TO THE BALKANS AND BEYOND.

6. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AND USEFUL FROM WASHINGTON STANDPOINT, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT REPEATING BUCHAREST ANY MESSAGES I COULD SHARE WITH MACOVESCU.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEES.

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